

Spurious drugs

†2657. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only in rare cases, persons involved in manufacture, sale and marketing of spurious drugs are punished/convicted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government proposes to take to make the existing laws stringent so that the offenders are brought to book under the law for various offences and that they are convicted/punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is a clandestine and illegal activity. The State Governments are regularly unearthing such activities. The State Drugs Control Organizations who are entrusted with the task of regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including monitoring of their quality and also to check any possible movement of spurious, products, have been furnished with detailed guidelines to ensure effective monitoring over manufacture and sale of any spurious medicines. A bill has been placed in Parliament to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to provide stricter punishment to the offenders including maximum penalty of life imprisonment as well as stiff fines. The bill further provides to make such offences non-bailable and cognizable, constitute special courts for speedy trials of drugs related cases and also confer powers on police officers, not below the rank of Sup-inspector to institute prosecution in drug related cases.

Irregularities in health projects

2658. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.